



# South Dakota FARMS, LAND IN FARMS, AND LIVESTOCK FARMS

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News Release

February 18, 2000

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## ***FARM NUMBERS UNCHANGED FROM 1998***

**SIoux FALLS, February 18, 2000** -- The number of farms in South Dakota in 1999 is estimated at 32,500, unchanged from the previous three years, according to USDA's South Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. This is down 7 percent from 35,000 farms ten years ago and 17 percent from 39,000 farms twenty years ago. Total land in farms, at 44 million acres, is also unchanged from a year ago; as is the average farm size, at 1,354 acres.

By sales class, there were 7,000 farms in the \$1,000-\$9,999 size group, unchanged from 1998; 15,300 farms in the \$10,000-\$99,999 size group, unchanged from a year earlier; and 10,200 farms in the \$100,000 and over sales group, also unchanged from last year.

The number of farms and ranches raising livestock during 1999 totaled: 21,000 raising cattle, 17,000 raising beef cows, 1,700 dairy operations, 2,700 hog operations, and 2,500 operations raising sheep.

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